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09/140,831	08/26/1998	GALEN WELLS	9717-4	9183

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EXAMINER

VANAMAN, FRANK BENNETT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3618

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

32/K

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen Ford on June 22, 2004.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

The abstract has been replaced with the following:

K1
-- A quick release skip pole strap system includes a novel ski pole strap that attaches to a ski pole grip. A locking mechanism within the ski pole grip automatically engages with a strap pin. A button attached to a side of the ski pole grip, when depressed, causes the strap pin to automatically eject from the ski pole grip decoupling the skier from the ski pole. The skier can depress the button without having to remove his hands from the ski pole grips. The ski pole strap in one embodiment is made of an elastic material that automatically pulls the pin from the ski pole grip and holds the ski pole in a "ready to plant" position. --

In the Specification:

On page 1, before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" the following paragraph has been added:

K2
--This is a division of commonly signed application Ser. No. 08/154,865 entitled QUICK RELEASE SKI POLE AND STRAP SYSTEM filed Nov. 18, 1993, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,443,287. --

On page 1, marked lines 15-26, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:

K3
-- For example, when the skier falls during a ski run his hands typically loses hold of the ski pole grip. The strap, however, remains wrapped around the skier's wrist keeping the pole attached to the skier as he falls down the slope. Thus, the skier does

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not have to traverse back up the hill to retrieve ski poles that have been inadvertently released at the beginning of the fall.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,085,814 to Scott shows a typical ski pole strap 17 wrapped around the wrist while the skier's hand is wrapped around a ski pole grip 10. The problem with standard ski pole straps as shown in Scott, is that they are difficult to remove from the skier's wrist. For example, the strap must be securely wrapped around the skier's hand so that it does not easily fall off during a ski run mishap. However, because the strap is securely wrapped around the skier's wrist, it is difficult for the skier to remove the strap, especially while wearing heavy gloves or mittens. --

On page 3, lines 17-24, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:

-- A quick release ski pole strap system includes a novel ski pole strap that attaches to a ski pole by inserting a strap pin into a channel on a ski pole grip. The ski pole grip has a front and back side joined by lateral sides. A locking mechanism within the ski pole grip automatically engages with the strap pin. A button attached in the ski pole grip is depressed causing the strap pin to automatically eject from the ski pole grip.

Thus, the skier is quickly decoupled from the ski pole. The skier then has the option of waiting until the last moment before disengaging the ski strap from the ski pole grip. --

On page 5, lines 1-4, the two sentences have been deleted and replaced with the following:

-- FIG. 5 is a cross section of the ski pole strap system taken along line 5--5 shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a cross section of the ski pole strap system of FIG. 1 taken along [lie] line 6--6 with an automatic eject system according to a second embodiment of the invention. --

On page 8, lines 7-14, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:

-- It can be seen in FIG. 2 that the ski pole strap 20 extends up from the wrist area 19 between the thumb and forefinger and into a back side of the ski pole grip 14. The ski pole strap 20, pin 24 and button 28 are positioned for quick and unobstructed strap release. For example, by placing button 28 on the lateral side of ski pole grip 14, the skier's thumb can be moved over the button 28 without getting entangled with strap 20 or strap pin 24. In an alternative embodiment, as shown in FIG. 9, the button [98] 28 can be location on the front side of the ski pole grip 14. --

106 [On page 8, lines 15-21, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:]

-- FIG. 3 is a detailed front view of the ski pole grip 14 and locking mechanism 46 used to attach the strap pin 24 inside ski pole grip 14. A cylinder 48 in ski pole grip [14] 42 houses a button cylinder 56 and a spring 50. A hole 54 extends through ski pole grip 14 perpendicular to cylinder 48 and button cylinder 56 contains a hole 52. Button cylinder 56 slides within cylinder 48 between a locked position and an unlocked position. In the locked position, holes 52, 54 are offset so as to provide an opening 25. -

[On page 8, lines 22-27, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:]

-- By depressing button 28, button cylinder 56 slides inside cylinder 48 compressing spring [50] 52. As button 28 is depressed, hole 52 coaxially aligns with hole 54. When holes 52 and 54 become aligned, the strap 20 (FIG. 1) pulls the strap pin 24 out from cylinders 48 and 56 and away from ski pole grip 14. Button 28 is then released and spring 50 pushes button cylinder 56 back into a decompressed position extending button 28 slightly out of ski pole grip 14. --

107 [On page 9, lines 5-16, the paragraph has been deleted and replaced with the following:]

-- Referring to FIGS. 3-5, when strap pin 24 is inserted into channel 64 the front end 60 of strap pin 24 forces button cylinder 56 sideways, compressing spring 50.

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Button cylinder 56 is moved inward until hole 54 in cylinder 48 and hole 52 in button cylinder 56 coaxially align. The aligned holes have a sufficiently sized diameter to receive front end 60.

107 As front end 60 moves inside button cylinder 56, button cylinder 56 is pushed back by spring 50 against section 62 clamping button cylinder 56 and cylinder 48 against opposite sides of the section 62. Since the diameter of opening 25 is now smaller than the diameter of strap pin end 60, strap pin 24 is locked into ski pole grip 14. It is important to note that strap pin 24 is locked into the ski pole grip 14 without having to depress button 28. This allows faster and easier attachment of ski pole strap 20 to ski pole grip 14. --

On page 11, line 6, after "108.", the following text has been inserted as a part of the same paragraph:

109 --For safety, the strap pin 24 can be pulled from channel 76 even when the pin 24 is locked to finger 82. For example, if a skier falls during a ski run, the ski pole may be firmly lodged in the snow while the skier continues to fall down the ski hill. A large enough force applied away from the ski pole grip 14 forces the pin 24 to disengage from finger 82 and allows the pin 24 to eject from channel 76. Thus, the ski straps will automatically detach from the ski pole grip during extreme bailments during a ski run. --

In the claims:

Claim 2 has been rewritten as follows:

109 -- 2. An attachment system according to claim 1 wherein the button has an elongated front face that extends horizontally from substantially the front to the back side of the ski pole grip, the front face allowing button actuation by either a thumb or a forefinger of the hand while the remaining fingers on said hand remain wrapped around the ski pole grip.

Claim 3 has been rewritten as follows:

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29 -- 3. An attachment system according to claim [7] 2 wherein the button is recessed below an outside surface of the ski pole grip.--

4. These changes have been made to correct minor typographical inconsistencies between the published patent document (US Patent 5,549,330) and the specification and claims of this Reissue application. This amendment additionally incorporates minor changes made by applicant in the filing of the instant specification in a format which clearly shows all changes vis-à-vis the original patent document. This amendment is not deemed to correct any error identified under 35 USC §251, and as such, no further declaration is deemed necessary.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Vanaman whose telephone number is 703-308-0424. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

As of May 1, 2003, any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

Or faxed to one of the following fax servers:

Regular Communications/Amendments: 703-872-9326
After Final Amendments: 703-872-9327
Customer Service Communications: 703-872-9325

F. VANAMAN
Primary Examiner
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